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ERMANNO BERNER,
President, Swiss Club, Manchester.

At the recently held Annual General Meeting of the Swiss Club, Manchester, Mr. Ermanno Berner, was elected President of the Swiss Club, Manchester, in succession to Mr. G. Senn, who had so efficiently and congenially presided over the Centenary Banquet, which took place on Saturday, November 11th, 1950, at the Midland Hotel, Manchester.

It was our good fortune to make the acquaintance of both the new and old Presidents of this Swiss Society, which enjoys the rare distinction of having passed the 100th mile post. These two gentlemen impressed me by their sincere patriotism, and their keen endeavours to promulgate the good name which our homeland enjoys in this country; in these efforts, they have been loyally supported by a Committee which is imbued with, what one may call, a 100 per cent. team spirit.

Our friends in the Midlands are indeed lucky to be able to call upon men, who, at all times, are prepared to put their services and experiences at the disposal of their countrymen.

We extend to the new head of this active and patriotic Society our very best wishes for a successful and fruitful year of office.

Mr. E. Berner was born in 1903 at Cene (Bergamo, Italy), and received his schooling at the "Kantonschule" in Aarau and the "Ecole Supérieure de Commerce" at Neuchâtel. Later on he attended the "Preussische Höhere Fachschule für Textil Industrie" in Krefeld, and subsequently joined the I.G. Farben Industrie, A.G. Leverkusen (Cologne).

In 1925, he joined the Società Italiana Industria Velluti, in Bergamo, a subsidiary of the firm of Johs. Girmes & Co., A.G., Oedt, nr. Krefeld, velvet and plush weavers, dyers and finishers, of which firm he became Managing-Director and a member of the Board until 1936.

Mr. Berner came to this country in 1937 and entered the firm of Messrs. Giron Frères (Great Britain) Ltd., of Accrington, French velvet weavers, dyers and finishers, in which concern he holds the position of Managing-Director and a member of the Board.

He has always taken a keen interest in the Swiss Colonies abroad. He was, for many years a member of

the Swiss Club, Bergamo and became a member of the Swiss Club, Manchester in 1937, and was elected Vice-President in 1950.

ST.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE UNIONE TICINESE, LADIES' SECTION.

The Annual General Meeting of the Unione Ticinese, Ladies' Section, took place on Sunday, the 11th February, 1951, at Swiss House.

Mrs. Berti reported on the activities of the Society during 1950 and upon the favourable position shown by the Accounts, and expressed the general satisfaction felt amongst all members that one of the main aims of the Society, *i.e.*, the operation of a scheme of Mutual Benefit grants, has now become a reality.

Under the Chairmanship of Mrs. Rina Tobin, who thanked the retiring Committee for their work, the new Committee for 1951 was then elected, as follows:—

President: Mrs. A. Berti, who was loudly acclaimed on resuming her former seat as President. *Vice-President*: Mrs. D. Diviani. *Secretary*: Mrs. Rina Eusebio. *Vice-Secretary*: Mrs. F. McKenna, *Treasurer*: Miss Silvia Morosi. *Committee Members*: Mrs. L. Bruni, Mrs. K. Ratti, Mrs. I. DeMaria, Mrs. L. Berti, Miss I. Abate, Miss L. Bonetti.

Mrs. Berti was warmly supported in her expression of gratitude to Miss Irma Abate for her efficient and devoted work as Secretary for the past two years, and a sincere vote of thanks was also expressed to Mrs. L. Bruni and to her assistants, Mrs. Allegranza and Mrs. Bassi, for their willing work as "the Catering Department".

The Society warmly welcomed the introduction of three new members, the Misses Lina, Ida and Emilia Pedretti, of Woolwich.

A keen discussion then followed on new ideas put forward for fresh, social activities during 1951, and finally, all business having been dispensed with, the members settled down to a chat, and a "scopa", interspersed with light refreshments, in true "ticinese" style.

R.E.

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